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FEW DAYS THAT SHARON'S OUTSIZED EGO INSECURITIES WERE STUNG BY THE CABINET'S REJECTION OF HIS PROPOSAL ON A VOTE WHICH HE HIMSELF INSISTED UPON, AS WELL AS OTHER PUBLIC CRITICISM OF HIS ACTIONS.

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6. SEVERAL EXAMPLES FROM SHARON'S MEETING WITH DAS DRAPER AUGUST 24 SERVE TO UNDERSCORE THE POINT. (THEY SURFACED AGAIN IN THE HABIB/SHARON MEETING ON AUGUST 25.) EARLY IN THE MEETING, SHARON RAISED THE ISSUE OF SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S APPEARANCE ON "FACE THE NATION" LAST SUNDAY, IN PARTICULAR WEINBERGER'S REMARKS CONCERNING SHARON'S INTERPRETATION OF THE PLAN AS IT DESCRIBED THE WEAPONS THE PLO COULD TAKE WITH THEM. SHARON REPLIED, WITH SOME INTENSITY, "THERE IS NO SHARON INTERPRETATION, IT DOESN'T EXIST. IT IS A CAREFUL AGREEMENT! THERE IS NO ROOM FOR INTERPRETATION. WHY IS HE SAYING I AM LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO RENEW THE SHELLING? WE WERE BLAMED--I WAS BLAMED--FOR VIOLATING THE AGREEMENT. YOU KNOW WHO VIOLATED THE AGREEMENT. WHY SHOULD I BE PERSONALLY BLAMED?" LATER, REFERRING TO STATEMENTS BY PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SECRETARY SHULTZ ON THE EVACUATION PLAN, SHARON ASKED WHY ISRAEL'S CONTRIBUTIONS HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED. "WHY WAS ISRAEL NOT THANKED FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS?"

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I AM NOT ASKING FOR THANKS FOR MYSELF, BUT ISRAEL SHOULD ALSO HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED FOR ITS EFFORTS." HE SAID SARKIS WAS THANKED, HABIB WAS THANKED (PROPERLY OF COURSE), EVEN DRAPER, SO WHY NOT BEGIN OR ANYONE IN ISRAEL? HE ALSO ALLUDED TO BEGIN'S PARALLEL RESENTMENT THAT "EVERYONE BUT ISRAEL" WAS COMMENDED IN WASHINGTON FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF HABIB'S PLAN.

7. BY VIRTUE OF HIS POSITION AS THE MOST POWERFUL INDIVIDUAL IN THE GOVERNMENT AFTER BEGIN, SHARON HAS A MAJOR (AND COMPLICATING) IMPACT ON THE U.S./ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP, AND HIS CURRENT MOOD MAKES THE POTENTIAL FOR COMPLICATIONS EVEN GREATER THAN USUAL. HOWEVER, WITH CAREFUL HANDLING, PLAYING TO SHARON'S EGO AND BEARING IN MIND THAT HE IS ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE RIGHT NOW, WE CAN LIMIT THE DAMAGE WHICH SHARON CAN DO TO THE RELATIONSHIP. HE SHOULD ALWAYS BE TREATED AS AN EQUAL WHOSE IDEAS AND PROPOSALS WILL BE GIVEN A SERIOUS HEARING. AT THE SAME TIME, HE MUST BE MADE TO UNDERSTAND IN A POLITE FASHION THE LIMITS OF U.S. TOLERANCE FOR ISRAELI ACTIONS AND THAT IF ISRAEL GOES BEYOND THOSE LIMITS, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ISRAEL.

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